

Regional Update

A Monthly Report of Activities on the Eastern Shore of Virginia

March 2006

PDC Completes Phase I of the Ecotourism Public Access Improvements

The PDC has worked with the Towns of Chincoteague and Wachapreague, Virginia Coastal Program and NOAA to improve public access to our water resources. Two new floating docks have been installed in the Towns of Chincoteague and Wachapreague.

The docks provide improved canoe, kayak and public access to the Eastern Shore of Virginia's Seaside Water Trail. This trail connects the Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge with the Virginia National Wildlife Refuge. The entire Trail is over 70 miles long.

The Chincoteague floating dock is located at the Town's Eastside Landing Dock off Eastside Landing Road. The Wachapreague floating dock is located at the Town's Marina off Atlantic Avenue. Another three floating docks are planned. The PDC is working with Northampton County to locate a similar dock in Willis Wharf.

The improvements are just in time to be in place for the printing of the new Seaside Water Trail Brochure. This document, that will also be available on the web, will guide kayakers along the length of the trail. Keep an eye out on our website, www.a-npdc.org for a link to the brochure.



PDC Staff Warmly Welcome Irv Kurzbard to the PDC Staff

On January 30th, Mr. Irv "BK" Kursbard has joined the PDC staff as the Housing Specialist. He will be inspecting homes for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program.

Mr. Kurzbard grew up in Wilmington, Delaware and graduated from the University of Delaware with a BS in Business Administration.

He has worked extensively in the Property Management business in Delaware, Virginia Beach and Ocean City, Maryland. He chose to move to the Eastern Shore because he has had a second home on Hacks Neck since 1994. We warmly welcome BK to the PDC and look forward to working with him.



Housing Staff Complete Program Training

Kat Edwards, Josie James, and Bobbie Jo Wert have all successfully completed rent calculation training for the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program. All three are receiving Certificates, successfully addressing a requirement of the program.

Broadband Workshops Kick Off Economic Development Project

Over 120 Eastern Shore leaders met February 7 and 8 to start the development of broadband internet service for the region.

Rick Smyre, a futurist and staff of the National Economic Development Institute, told leaders that responding to the economic "megatrends" of the 21st Century will require high speed internet capacity for rural areas. Dr. Andrew Cohill, founder of the Blacksburg Electronic Village, said sustained 100-155 megabits per second broadband is essential infrastructure in order to compete in the Creative Knowledge Economy.

At the conclusion of the workshops,

it was announced that the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development would be funding planning studies to install fiber in the Chincoteague-Wallops, the Onancock-Onley-Accomack, and the Exmore-Nassawadox areas.

As these studies begin, the Virginia Center for Innovative Technology and the Northampton County Extension Service will be conducting educational "Broadband 101" seminars on March 22-23 at the Eastern Shore of Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

For more information contact Barbara Scwchenk at (757)787-2936 x.115.

2004 Federal Funds Report

The 2004 Consolidated Federal Funds Report shows that both counties have received less money from the government since the 2003 fiscal year. Much of the emergency monies from Hurricane Isabel were also included in this year. Northampton County had a reduction of \$56,826,462 and Accomack County had a reduction of \$13,348,806. Still \$550 million of the government budget was spent on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. According to the 2004 Census estimate of the population, that is \$52,661 per person.

The largest category in Accomack is Procurement Contracts (\$107,338,391). In Northampton County the largest category is also Procurement Contracts (\$87,532,611).

The five largest line item expenditures in Accomack are Procurement Contracts - All Federal Government Agencies other than Defense and the

Postal Service (20% of the total amount), Social Security Retirement Insurance (14%), Procurement Contracts - Dept. of Defense (9%), Salaries and Wages - All Federal Government Civilian Employees except Defense and Postal Service (8%), and the Medical Assistance Program (8%). These five line items are \$214 million (58%) of all offederal expenditures in Accomack.

The five largest line item expenditures in Northampton are Procurement Contracts - All Federal Government Agencies other than Defense and the Postal Service (24% of the total amount), Procurement Contracts - Dept. of Defense (23%), Social Security Retirement Insurance (11%), the Medical Assistance Program (8%), and the Medicare - Hospital Insurance (5%). These five line items are \$123 million (66%) of all offederal expenditures in Northampton.

Class A,B Contractors Wanted

Class A, B Contractors wanted for renovation and new construction projects for the Housing Redevelopment Corporation and the Planning District Commission.

In the past, contracts have been for demolition work, renovation of low-income and moderate-income housing, new construction of housing for low-income and moderate-income persons, lead rehabilitation, and housing elevation.

Please contact Robert Williams at (757)787-2936 x.111 for more information or a pre-qualification form.

Disability Task Force to hold Transportation Workshop

The Housing for Persons with Disabilities Task Force will be meeting Tuesday, March 14, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. in the Enterprise Building located at 23372 Front Street, Accomac, Virginia.

The public is invited to come and contribute to a Transportation Needs Workshop for persons with disabilities, elderly, low-income and youth populations. The purpose of the public meeting is to identify gaps in the transportation network for the identified population.



How to Contact the A-NPDC

If you have questions or would like to discontinue your subscription, please contact the Planning District Commission.

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